In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1-11 (Canceled)

12. (New) A well pump assembly, comprising:

an electric motor having a housing, a rotatable shaft located within the housing and radially supported by a bearing, the housing being filled and sealed with lubricant;

first and second centrifugal pump stages located in the housing, each of the pump stages having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant, each of the diffusers having a plurality of diffuser passages that lead from radially outward inlets to radially inward outlets;

an outlet flow passage in fluid communication with an outlet of the second pump stage and leading to the bearing, the combined pump stages applying sufficient pressure to the lubricant to induce a film of lubricant between the bearing and the shaft; and

a rotary pump coupled to the motor exterior of the housing and driven by the shaft of the motor..

13. (New) The well pump assembly according to claim 12, wherein:

the pump stages have a combined capacity to produce at least 30 psi of pressure in the lubricant.

14. (New) The well pump assembly according to claim 12, further comprising a return flow passage for delivering lubricant from the bearing to the inlets of the diffuser passages of the first pump stage, the diffuser of the first pump stage being upstream of the impeller of the first pump stage.

15. (New) The well pump assembly according to claim 12, wherein:

the impeller of the second pump stage is located downstream of the diffuser of the second pump stage.

16. (New) The well pump assembly according to claim 12, wherein:

the impeller of each of the pump stages has substantially radial flow passages.

17. (New) The well pump assembly according to claim 12, wherein:

a chamber is located in a lower portion of the housing, the chamber containing lubricant and being fixed in volume; and

the outlet of the second pump stage leads into the chamber.

18. (New) A well pump assembly, comprising:

an electrical motor having a shaft and a radial support bearing located within a housing that is filled and sealed with lubricant;

a chamber located in a lower portion of the housing and containing a portion of the lubricant;

an output flow passage within the shaft leading from the chamber to the bearing;

a first diffuser having a plurality of first diffuser passages having inlets and outlets, the outlets of the first diffuser passages being radially inward from the inlets;

an annular return flow passage surrounding the shaft and leading from the bearing to the inlets of the first diffuser passages;

a first impeller mounted to the shaft for rotation therewith and having a central intake that is in communication with the outlets of the first diffuser passages for receiving lubricant from the first diffuser, the first impeller having a plurality of first impeller passages with outlets radially outward from the central intake for discharging lubricant;

a second diffuser having a plurality of second diffuser passages having inlets in communication with the outlets of the first impeller passages for receiving lubricant therefrom, the second diffuser passages extending radially inward and having outlets;

a second impeller mounted to the shaft for rotation therewith and having a central intake that is in communication with the outlets of the second diffuser passages for receiving lubricant therefrom, the second impeller having a plurality of second impeller passages with outlets radially outward from the central intake of the second impeller for discharging lubricant into the chamber;

the first and second impellers and first and second diffusers being sized to produce sufficient pressure to induce a lubricant fluid film between the bearing and the shaft; and a pump exterior of the motor and connected to the shaft for pumping well fluid.

19. (New) The assembly of claim 18, wherein:

the first and second impellers and diffusers have a combined capacity to pressurize the lubricant to at least 30 psi.

20. (New) The assembly of claim 18, wherein:

the second impeller discharges downward into a lubricant reservoir of fixed volume within the chamber.

21. (New) A method of operating an electric motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is adapted to be filled and sealed with lubricant, comprising:

mounting at least one centrifugal lubricant pump stage in the housing, the pump stage having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant;

supplying power to the motor to cause the shaft and the impeller to rotate; and

with the pump stage, applying pressure to the lubricant and flowing the lubricant to the bearing from the pump stage at a pressure sufficient to induce a film of lubricant between the shaft and the bearing that prevents the shaft from contacting the bearing.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the pressure of the lubricant is at least 30 pounds per square inch.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of mounting at least one centrifugal lubricant pump stage in the housing comprises mounting a plurality of the pump stages within the housing.